

22 SEP 1998

Parliament-Budget

PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION BEGINS ON OCT 20

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- The Parliament Budget session, which begins on Oct 20, will see Members of Parliament attending full-day sittings under a new arrangement.

Previously, the Parliament sitting begins at 2.30pm, from Monday to Thursday.

Under the arrangement to be introduced at the Budget session, Parliament will sit from 10am to 5.30pm, also from Monday to Thursday, with a 90-minute break from 1pm to 2.30pm.

Parliament's public liaison officer Ahmad Asri Zakaria, when contacted, said that the next Parliament session would be from Oct 20 to Dec 10 while the next Senate session would be from Dec 7 to 17.

The last Parliament session in July approved a motion to amend the House Standing Rules to enable sittings to commence in the morning.

Under the amendment, the Speaker can extend the sitting for another 15 minutes.

Ahmad Asri said that MPs would be notified of the date of the Budget session this week.

Bernama understands that the 1999 Budget may be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Finance Minister 1, at 4pm on Friday, Oct 23.

Asked on the seating position of Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was expelled from Umno, Ahmad Asri said that the seating arrangements had not yet been made.

In Parliament, ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentary secretaries and Barisan Nasional MPs are seated in rows A to E while opposition or independent MPs are seated in row F.

In the next session, the seat of DAP MP for Kota Melaka Lim Guan Eng will be empty.

Lim began serving his 18-month jail term at Kajang Prison on Aug 25 when his appeal against conviction for publishing false news and sedition was turned down by the Federal Court.

According to Article 48 of the Federal Constitution, an MP is disqualified if he is jailed for one year or fined RM2,000.

-- BERNAMA

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